

Routine Proceedings

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): As the hon. member knows, policy and program proposals, where appropriate, are advanced for cabinet review, after consideration of the environmental implications of such proposals. Of course, when the analysis shows that no significant environmental effect is anticipated as a result of a certain proposal, that conclusion is indicated and no further elaboration or statement is required.

Some examples of recent policies and programs that included a rather substantial environmental assessment which supports the early integration of environmental considerations in the decision-making process, include:

The Canadian Policy on Nuclear Vessels in Canadian Waters which examined the environmental considerations and effects of visits of nuclear-powered vessels to Canadian ports; and

The Transit of Dixon Entrance by U.S. submarines, a policy for which an environmental assessment was an integral part of the decision.

Of course, on the program proposals side, all program initiatives proposed under the green plan—77 to date—were subjected to an environmental assessment at the planning stage.

Similarly, Agriculture Canada integrated an environmental assessment of the Farm Safety Net Program.

In addition, an environmental review of the North America free trade agreement is being conducted by this government.

In response to the question of who conducts each assessment, it is the initiating minister of the policy or program that is responsible for ensuring that the integration, quality, and timeliness of the environmental assessment is considered fully and early in the decision process.

The public statements are released at the same time as the government's policy or program initiatives are announced. Supporting studies or documents are referred to in these statements. For some of the policy proposals cited above, the entire studies were referred to and made available to the public.

Question No. 278—Mr. Milliken:

For each fiscal year since 1988, did the Department of Finance commission any public opinion polls and, if so (a) how many (b) what was the total cost?

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Public opinion polls commissioned by the Department of Finance 1988–1992:

- a) Fiscal year 1988–89—2
Fiscal year 1989–90—6
Fiscal year 1990–91—13
Fiscal year 1991–92—2
- b) Fiscal year 1988–89—\$230,000
Fiscal year 1989–90—\$397,500
Fiscal year 1990–91—\$679,850
Fiscal year 1991–92—\$226,800

Question No. 288—Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East):

Since January 1, 1989, has the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs received any complaints concerning unregistered lobbyists' activities and, if so (a) how many were referred to the RCMP for investigation (b) how many were referred to other agencies for action (c) how many were referred to the office of the Minister (d) what was done with the remaining complaints?

Mrs. Dorothy Dobbie (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)): The Lobbyists Registration Act came into force on September 30, 1989. Since that time, the registrar who is responsible for administering the act has been made aware, through the media, of two cases of potential non-registered lobbyists, and both cases were referred to the RCMP. No other formal complaints have been received.

[English]

Madam Deputy Speaker: The questions as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered.

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QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

Mr. Ross Belsher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Madam Speaker, if Question No. 164 could be made an Order for Return, the return would be tabled immediately.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that Question No. 164 be deemed to have been made an Order for Return?

Some hon. members: Agreed.